

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 19255 181433Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EUR-12 ARA-10
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /125 W
-----028955 190947Z /14

R 181426Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2786
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP EG IT
SUBJECT: SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN-ETHIOPIAN
- RELATIONS

1. ETHIOPIAN POLOFF COMMENTED TO EMBOFF AUGUST 17 THAT
EGYPTIAN MFA HAD DURING RECENT WEEKS MADE EFFORT TO IMPROVE
SERIOUSLY STRAINED ETHIOPIAN-EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC RELA-
TIONS. IN JULY ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BETROU KIDANE-MARIAM
HAD DELIVERED STIFF PROTEST NOTE TO MINSTATE FONAFF
BOUTROS GHALI COMPLAINING OF INFLAMMATORY ARTICLES ON
ETHIOPIA AND INFORMING EGYPTIANS THAT ENTIRE QUESTION OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS "UNDER REVIEW."

2. AFTER GHALI HAD DELIVERED ETHIOPIAN PROTEST TO
FONMIN KAMEL, AMBASSADOR BETROU WAS CALLED BY KAMEL FOR
PERSONAL MEETING. KAMEL WAS "QUITE CONCILIATORY." KAMEL
NOTED THAT, WHILE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ETHIOPIAN PROTEST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 19255 181433Z

WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOE, THERE WAS SOME TRUTH TO
ETHIOPIAN COMPLAINTS OVER BIASED PRESS TREATMENT. KAMEL
STRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BETROU THAT GOE WOULD MAKE CON-
SCIOUS EFFORT TO REMOVE DIPLOMATIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND
PROMISED TO MEET WITH MININFO SAWI TO URGE EGYPTIAN PRESS
RESTRAINT IN FUTURE ARTICLES DEALING WITH ETHIOPIA.

3. KAMEL ALSO INFORMED AMBASSADOR BETROU THAT DURING JULY GOE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA STRESSING POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PMGSE AND GOE. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA HAD APPARENTLY GAINED IMPRESSION THAT, DESPITE CLOSE ETHIOPIAN-SOVIET TIES, POSSIBILITIES OF FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ETHIOPIA WOULD INCREASE IN FUTURE. KAMEL COMMENTED THAT, IN LIGHT OF REPORTING FROM ADDIS ABABA, EGYPTIAN MFA WOULD WORK FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS.

4. ETHIOPIAN POLOFF CONCLUDED THAT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY HAS INDEED NOTED ABATEMENT IN VOLUME OF ANTI-ETHIOPIAN PRESS TREATMENT. ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIANS STILL HIGHLY CRITICAL OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS, ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY CAIRO BELIEVES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ARE NOW MOVING FROM RECENT CRISIS INTO PERIOD OF MORE CORDIAL RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: ETHIOPIANS MAY BE MORE OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE OF GHALI'S AND KAMEL'S COMMENTS THAN IS WARRANTED. BOTH GHALI AND KAMEL WOULD LIKE A THAW IN ETHIOPIAN/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. THEY MAY BE EXPECTED DO WHAT THEY CAN TO FACILITATE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, IT IS SADAT WHO CALLS THE TUNE ON EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARD THE HORN OF AFRICA AND SADAT REMAINS SQUARELY IN THE CORNER OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 19255 181433Z

SADAT HAS SYMPATHY FOR THE DILEMMA IN WHICH SIAD FINDS HIMSELF IN OGADEN AND ACCEPTS THE SOMALI PRESIDENT'S ARGUMENT THAT TO STOP GIVING MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE ETHNIC SOMALI INSURGENTS COULD CAUSE HIM TO LOSE FACE WITH HIS OWN SOMALI PEOPLE. SADAT CONTINUES TO VIEW THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA IN DARKEST TERMS. SHOULD THE ETHIOPIANS AGAIN MOUNT MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST THE SOMALIS BECAUSE SIAD CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE INSURGENTS THERE, SADAT MAY BE EXPECTED ANGRILY TO BLAME THE ETHIOPIANS. WHETHER THIS IS JUSTIFIED OR NOT IS NOT THE ISSUE; UNQUESTIONED SUPPORT FOR SIAD HAS BECOME A LINCHPIN OF EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARD THE HORN OF AFRICA AND KAMEL AND GHALI WILL, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, HAVE TO TOE THE LINE. IF ON THE OTHER HAND ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA DO NOT RECUR, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT A GRADUAL THAW IN EGYPTIAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS MAY TAKE PLACE. SO LONG AS THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE IN ETHIOPIA, HOWEVER, SADAT WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK WITH DEEP SUSPICION UPON THE MENGISTU REGIME AS A THREAT NOT ONLY TO SOMALIA, BUT ALSO MORE IMMEDIATELY TO THE SUDAN AND EVENTUALLY TO EGYPT ITSELF. THIS WILL SHARPLY LIMIT THE EXTENT TO WHICH IMPROVED EGYPTIAN/

ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS CAN DEVELOP. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO19255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-1348
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780845/aaaablfn.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5af15160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1685236
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN-ETHIOPIAN - RELATIONS
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, EG, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5af15160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014